

Swain Soil and Water Education Newsletter

Spring 2018

The theme for the 2018 Bookmark Contest was "Water... The Cycle of Life".



The contest was open to 3rd-5th grade students in Swain County. There were 106 participants this year. East Elementary and Mountain Discovery Charter School each had winners who received gift cards and goodie bags. First place in both schools got their bookmark design printed and distributed county-wide! This is an annual contest with a rotating theme schedule that takes place at the beginning of each year. In addition to the bookmark contest, Swain SWCD offers poster contests, essay contests, computer designed slide show contests, and speech contests.

2018 Bookmark Contest

East Elementary 4th grade winners: Second place Bentley Riggins; First place Noah Shuler; Third place Molleigh Woodard



Swain Soil & Water Conservation District
2018



by Noah Shuler
Swain East Elementary

Swain Soil & Water Conservation District
2018



by Sienna Hackshaw
Mountain Discovery Charter School



MDCS 5th grade winners: Third place Landon Coday; Second place Gavin Serio; First place Sienna Hackshaw

NC Area 1 Envirothon 2018

The Envirothon program is a contest that consists of 5 subject area research stations—wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils, and current environmental issues. Teams of 3-5 visit each station to learn and study then are given a written test on each topic.

The Area 1 competition was held on March 23rd in Haywood County. Thirty high school teams and thirty-two middle school teams from the Area 1 counties competed. Swain SWCD sponsored one Swain Middle School team to compete—The Dogwood Devils.

The top 7 winning Area 1 teams were sent on to the State Envirothon competition, which was held in Burlington, NC on April 27th-28th.



The Dogwood Devils: Josh Brooks (advisor), Anneleise Cook, Ryan Bradley, Mackenzie Mullins, River Ogle, and Julie Smith.

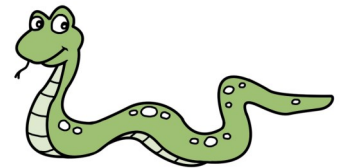


44th Annual Swain Soil & Water Conservation Field Days

On April 18th and 19th, fifth grade students from East and West Swain Elementary, Mountain Discovery Charter School, and Cherokee Central Elementary Schools took part in the 44th Annual Conservation Field Days sponsored by Swain Soil & Water Conservation District. Field days were held at Deep Creek in Bryson City and the Oconaluftee Island Park in Cherokee.

Conservation Field Days promote environmental awareness and stewardship through unique experiences that students will remember and carry with them into adulthood. A variety of local agencies lend their time and knowledge to make Conservation Field Days a success. This year, students rotated through the following stations led by the following agencies:

Beekeeping—Smoky Mountain Beekeepers Association
Weather—NC Cooperative Extension, Swain County
Agriculture—EBCI Cooperative Extension
Stream Dynamics—Macon Soil & Water Conservation District
Soil—NC Division of Soil & Water and Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District
Energy/Air Quality—NC Division of Environmental Quality
Wildlife—Balsam Mountain Trust Nature Center
Bears—NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Elk—Great Smoky Mountains National Park Service
Bats—EBCI Natural Resources Program



Students learn about bear nutrition from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.



Bethany Sheffer, Balsam Mountain Trust, shows off an Eastern Box Turtle named Merlin.



Doug Johnson, Macon Soil & Water, talks to students about erosion, pollution, and stream dynamics.



Students study an elk pelt and antlers with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Service.

SWCD Fun



Fourth grade students at East Elementary learn about the water cycle with Mobius Strips.



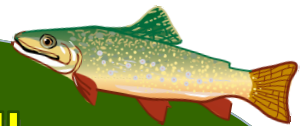
Area 1 Envirothon teams train in Haywood County.



Swain Middle School eighth graders learn about stream dynamics with the stream table at Kids in the Creek.



Upcoming Education Events...



Mobile Soil Exhibit Lesson: May 1st @3:30 PM, Family Resource Center in Bryson City, NC
Bryson City USDA Service Center Open House: May 30th @12:00 PM, 100 Brendle St. Bryson City, NC
"Fashion A Fish": June 11th @ 10:00 AM, Mariana Black Library in Bryson City, NC
FFA Land Judging Career Development Event: September 2018 (Date TBA)

Interested in participating in our contests or events like Envirothon, Conservation Field Day, or Land Judging? Please contact Shelby for more information. Swain SWCD can also come out to your class or organization to teach lessons on a variety of natural resource related topics: soils, water, wildlife, agriculture, forestry, etc. We offer free posters, coloring books, and other educational handouts for interested parties. Ask Shelby about our Mobile Soil Exhibit and Stream Table!

Shelby Cook, Education Coordinator
shelby.cook@swaincountync.gov
828-488-2684 x3099
100 Brendle Street
Bryson City, NC 28713



Board of Supervisors:

Cam Carson Jack Walls
Mitchell Jenkins Avery Taylor
William Shuler